

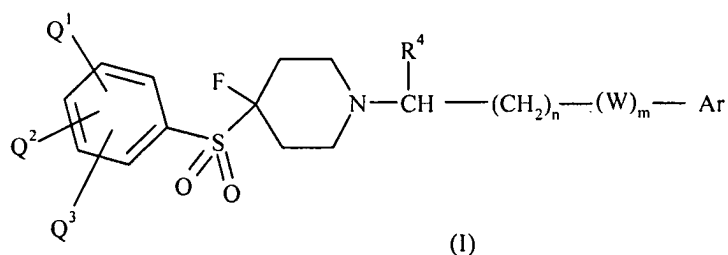
**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please cancel Claims 1-19 and insert therefore Claims 20-26 as follow.

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-19 (canceled)

20. (New) A compound of the formula I:



wherein:

Ar is phenyl, benzisothiazol-3-yl or benzthiophen-3-yl, each of which bears substituent groups R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup>;

R<sup>1</sup> is hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, bromine, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl, C<sub>2-6</sub> alkenyl, C<sub>2-6</sub> alkynyl, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy, C<sub>2-6</sub> alkenyloxy, C<sub>2-6</sub> alkynyloxy, or C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl substituted with 1-5 fluorine atoms;

R<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkoxy, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl substituted with 1-5 fluorine atoms or C<sub>1-4</sub> alkoxy substituted with 1-5 fluorine atoms;

R<sup>3</sup> is hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, methyl, methoxy, trifluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy or difluoromethoxy;

Q<sup>1</sup> is hydrogen; fluorine; chlorine; bromine; C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl; C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl; C<sub>2-6</sub> alkenyl; C<sub>2-6</sub> alkynyl; C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy; C<sub>2-6</sub> alkenyloxy; C<sub>2-6</sub> alkynyloxy; C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl substituted with 1-5 fluorine atoms; nitrile; COQ<sup>4</sup> or CO<sub>2</sub>Q<sup>4</sup> where Q<sup>4</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl; NQ<sup>5</sup>Q<sup>6</sup>, CONQ<sup>5</sup>Q<sup>6</sup> or SO<sub>2</sub>NQ<sup>5</sup>Q<sup>6</sup> where Q<sup>5</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl and Q<sup>6</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl or Q<sup>5</sup> and Q<sup>6</sup> are joined to form either a 4-7 membered heterocyclic ring which may also contain one oxygen or one further nitrogen ring atom, which heterocyclic ring may optionally be substituted by up to 3 fluorine atoms or by CF<sub>3</sub>, methyl, ethyl or hydroxyl; hydroxyl; nitro; SOQ<sup>7</sup> or SO<sub>2</sub>Q<sup>7</sup> where Q<sup>7</sup> is C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl;

$\text{NQ}^8\text{COQ}^9$ ,  $\text{NQ}^8\text{CO}_2\text{Q}^9$  or  $\text{NQ}^8\text{SO}_2\text{Q}^9$  where  $\text{Q}^8$  is hydrogen or  $\text{C}_{1-4}$ alkyl and  $\text{Q}^9$  is hydrogen or  $\text{C}_{1-4}$ alkyl or is joined to  $\text{Q}^8$  to form a 5-7 membered ring; a heteroaromatic ring of 5 ring atoms 1, 2, 3 or 4 of which may be nitrogen atoms or 1 or 2 of which are nitrogen atoms and 1 of which is an oxygen or sulfur atom or 1 of which is an oxygen or sulfur atom, which heteroaromatic ring optionally being substituted by methyl, ethyl or hydroxyl; or a heteroaromatic ring of 6 ring atoms containing 1 or 2 nitrogen ring atoms or a phenyl group either of which is optionally substituted by 1 or 2 fluorine or chlorine atoms or  $\text{C}_{1-4}$ alkyl,  $\text{C}_{1-4}$ alkoxy or trifluoromethyl groups;

$\text{Q}^2$  is hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, nitrile, hydroxy,  $\text{C}_{1-4}$  alkyl,  $\text{C}_{1-4}$  alkoxy,  $\text{C}_{1-4}$  alkyl substituted with 1-5 fluorine atoms, or  $\text{C}_{1-4}$  alkoxy substituted with 1-5 fluorine atoms;

$\text{Q}^3$  is hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, methyl, methoxy, trifluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy or difluoromethoxy;

or  $\text{Q}^2$  and  $\text{Q}^3$  are joined to form the residue of a 5, 6 or 7 membered carbocyclic ring;

$\text{R}^4$  is H or  $\text{C}_{1-4}$  alkyl,

m is 0 or 1;

n is 0, 1 or 2; and

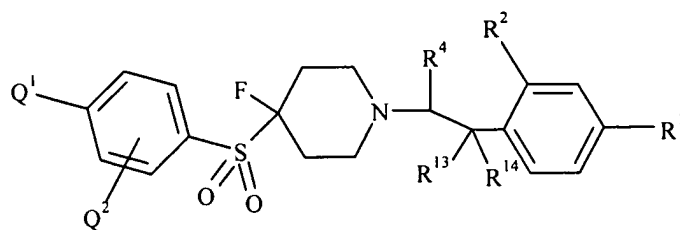
W is  $-\text{CH}_2-$ ,  $-\text{CHF}-$ ,  $-\text{CH}(\text{OH})-$  or  $-\text{CO}-$ ;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

21. (New) The compound of Claim 20 wherein Ar is benzisothiazol-3-yl or benzthiophen-3-yl, each bearing substituent groups  $\text{R}^1$ ,  $\text{R}^2$  and  $\text{R}^3$ , m is 0 and n is 0.

22. (New) The compound of Claim 20 wherein Ar is phenyl bearing substituent groups  $\text{R}^1$ ,  $\text{R}^2$  and  $\text{R}^3$ , m is 1 and n is 0.

23. (New) The compound of Claim 20 of the formula IIA:



(IIA)

wherein  $R^{13}$  represents H; and  $R^{14}$  represents H, F or OH; or  $R^{13}$  and  $R^{14}$  together represent keto;  
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

24. (New) The compound of Claim 20 wherein  $Q^1$  is selected from H, F, Cl, Br, CN, carboxamide, 5-membered heteroaryl and  $NQ^5Q^6$  where  $Q^5$  and  $Q^6$  complete a heterocyclic ring;

$Q^2$  is H, F or Cl;

$Q^3$  is H or F;

$R^1$  is H, F, methyl or  $CF_3$ ;

$R^2$  is H, F, methyl or  $CF_3$ ; and

$R^3$  is H.

25. (New) A compound which is selected from the group consisting of:

- 4-(4-Bromophenylsulfonyl)-1-[2-(2,4-Difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-fluoropiperidine;
- 1-[2-(2,4-Difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-fluoro-4-(4-fluorophenylsulfonyl)piperidine;
- 4-({1-[2-(2,4-Difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-fluoropiperidin-4-yl} sulfonyl)benzonitrile;
- 4-({1-[2-(2,4-Difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-fluoropiperidin-4-yl} sulfonyl)benzamide;
- 4-({4-Fluoro-1-[2-(2-fluorophenyl)ethyl]piperidin-4-yl} sulfonyl)benzamide;
- 4-Fluoro-4-(4-fluorophenylsulfonyl)-1-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethyl]piperidine;
- 4-Fluoro-4-(4-fluorophenylsulfonyl)-1-[2-(2-fluorophenyl)ethyl]piperidine;
- 4-Fluoro-4-(4-fluorophenylsulfonyl)-1-(2-phenylethyl)piperidine;
- 4-({4-Fluoro-1-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethyl]piperidin-4-yl} sulfonyl)benzonitrile;
- 4-({4-Fluoro-1-[2-(2-fluorophenyl)ethyl]piperidin-4-yl} sulfonyl)benzonitrile;
- 4-({4-Fluoro-1-(2-phenylethyl)piperidin-4-yl} sulfonyl)benzonitrile;

4-({4-Fluoro-1-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethyl]piperidin-4-yl}sulfonyl)benzamide;  
4-{[4-Fluoro-1-(2-phenylethyl)piperidin-4-ylsulfonyl] benzamide;  
1-[2-(2,4-Difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-fluoro-4-(phenylsulfonyl)piperidine;  
4-Fluoro-1-(2-(2-fluorophenyl)ethyl)-4-(phenylsulfonyl)piperidine;  
4-Fluoro-1-(2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethyl)-4-(phenylsulfonyl)piperidine;  
4-Fluoro-1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-(phenylsulfonyl)piperidine;  
1-[2-(2,4-Difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-fluoro-4-(2-fluorophenylsulfonyl)piperidine;  
1-[2-(2,4-Difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-fluoro-4-(3-fluorophenylsulfonyl)piperidine;  
4-(4-Chlorophenylsulfonyl)-1-[2-(2,4-difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-fluoropiperidine;  
4-({4-Fluoro-1-[(6-fluoro-1,2-benzisothiazol-3-yl)methyl]piperidin-4-yl}sulfonyl)benzonitrile;  
6-Fluoro-3-({4-fluoro-4-[(4-fluorophenyl)sulfonyl]piperidin-1-yl)methyl)-1,2-benzisothiazole;  
4-[4-({1-[2-(2,4-Difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-fluoropiperidin-4-yl}sulfonyl)phenyl]morpholine;  
1-[2-(2,4-Difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-fluoro-4-[4-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)phenylsulfonyl]piperidine;  
1-[2-(2,4-Difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-fluoro-4-[4-(piperidin-1-yl)phenylsulfonyl]piperidine;  
1-[2-(2,4-Difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-fluoro-4-{4-[4-(trifluoromethyl)piperidin-1-yl]phenylsulfonyl}-  
piperidine;  
4-[4-(Azetidin-1-yl)phenylsulfonyl]-1-[2-(2,4-difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-fluoropiperidine;  
1-[2-(2,4-Difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-[4-(4,4-difluoropiperidin-1-yl)phenylsulfonyl]-4-  
fluoropiperidine;  
1-[2-(2,4-Difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-fluoro-4-[4-([1,2,3]triazol-1-yl)phenylsulfonyl]piperidine;  
1-[2-(2,4-Difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-fluoro-4-[4-(pyrrol-1-yl)phenylsulfonyl]piperidine;  
1-[2-(2,4-Difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-fluoro-4-[4-(pyrazol-1-yl)phenylsulfonyl]piperidine;  
1-[2-(2,4-Difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-fluoro-4-{[3-fluoro-4-(pyrazol-1-yl)phenyl]sulfonyl}piperidine;  
1-[2-(2,4-Difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-fluoro-4-{[3-fluoro-4-(imidazol-1-yl)phenyl]sulfonyl}piperidine;  
1-[2-(2,4-Difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-fluoro-4-{[3-fluoro-4-(1,2,3-triazol-1-yl)phenyl]sulfonyl}-  
piperidine;  
1-[2-(2,4-Difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-fluoro-4-{[3-fluoro-4-(1,2,4-triazol-1-yl)phenyl]sulfonyl}-  
piperidine;  
1-[2-(2,4-Difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-fluoro-4-[4-(1,3-oxazol-2-yl)phenylsulfonyl]piperidine;

1-[2-(2,4-Difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-fluoro-4-[4-(1-methylpyrazol-5-yl)phenylsulfonyl]piperidine;  
1-[2-(2,4-Difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-fluoro-4-[4-(1-methylimidazol-2-yl)phenylsulfonyl]piperidine;  
1-[2-(2,4-Difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-fluoro-4-[4-(2-methyltetrazol-5-yl)phenylsulfonyl]piperidine;  
1-[2-(2,4-Difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-fluoro-4-[4-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)phenylsulfonyl]piperidine;  
4-[(2-Bromo-4-fluorophenyl)sulfonyl]-1-[2-(2,4-difluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-fluoropiperidine;  
(RS)-1-[2-(2,4-Difluorophenyl)-2-fluoroethyl]-4-fluoro-4-(phenylsulfonyl)piperidine;  
2-[4-Fluoro-4-(4-fluorophenylsulfonyl)piperidin-1-yl]-1-(4-fluorophenyl)ethanone;  
(RS)-4-Fluoro-1-[2-fluoro-2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-(4-fluorophenylsulfonyl)piperidine;  
4-({4-Fluoro-1-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-oxoethyl]piperidin-4-yl}sulfonyl)benzonitrile;  
1-(4-Fluorophenyl)-2-[4-fluoro-4-(phenylsulfonyl)piperidin-1-yl]ethanone;  
(RS)-4-({1-[2-(2,4-Difluorophenyl)-2-fluoroethyl]-4-fluoropiperidin-4-yl}sulfonyl)benzamide;  
(RS)-4-({4-Fluoro-1-[2-fluoro-2-(4-fluorophenyl)ethyl]piperidin-4-yl}sulfonyl)benzamide;  
(RS)-1-[2-(2,4-Difluorophenyl)-1-methylethyl]-4-fluoro-4-(4-fluorophenylsulfonyl)-  
piperidine;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof

26. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the compound of Claim 20 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.